



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19 through September 25, 2021*

Who's the greatest? The devil, the world, and our sinful flesh would have us believe the greatest are those with the most fame, money, or power. Kings and generals are great. Billionaires, celebrities, and superhuman athletes are great. Little children are *not* great. Slaves and servants do *not* make the cut. A man hanging on a cross would be last and least of all... Or not...

In this week's Gospel reading (Mark 9:30-37), Jesus gives us the Godly definition of greatness. "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." The Greatest is, in fact, the Child born of Mary, the Humble Servant who gave His life on the cross to redeem the world and make all things new.

AN ORDER FOR DAILY MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the appointed verse and portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday, Sept. 19 | Psalm 136:1-9 | Neh. 2:11-10; 4:1-6 | 1 Tim. 2:1-15 |
| Monday, Sept. 20 | Psalm 46 | Neh. 4:7-23 | 1 Tim 3:1-16 |
| Tuesday, Sept. 21 | Psalm 55:12-19 | Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16 | 1 Tim. 4:1-16 |
| Wednesday, Sept. 22 | Psalm 133 | Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18 | 1 Tim. 5:1-16 |
| Thursday, Sept. 23 | Psalm 51:5-13 | Neh. 9:1-21 | 1 Tim. 5:17-6:2 |
| Friday, Sept. 24 | Psalm 123 | Neh. 9:22-38 | 1 Tim 6:3-21 |
| Saturday, Sept. 25 | Psalm 51:5-13 | Mal. 1:1-14 | Matt. 3:1-17 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Theme: Jesus rescues us from the grips of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh that would have us seek salvation in worldly greatness, that we may receive salvation in Him who comes as “Last of All and Servant of All” on the cross.

Hymn: 690, “Hope of the World”

Summary of Readings:

Jeremiah 11:18-20: Jeremiah gives us a picture of Christ who goes like a Lamb to the slaughter at the hands of those He had come to save.

James 3:13-4:10: Our sinful, self-serving nature operates from pride and selfish ambition. But the way of discipleship is the way of humility that lives from Christ’s forgiveness and the wisdom He gives by which we remain pure, peaceable, and full of mercy and good fruits.

Mark 9:30-37: As the disciples argue about “who is greatest,” Jesus says, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all,” turning the world’s understanding of greatness upside down and demonstrating for us the true meaning of greatness in His own suffering and death.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Mark 10:45: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

THE CATECHISM: THE THIRD AND FOURTH COMMANDMENTS

(Important! If you have memorized a different translation in confirmation, it is best to pull out your old catechism and refresh your memory from those texts.)

*What is the Third Commandment? **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

*What is the Fourth Commandment? **Honor your father and your mother.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 54 (ESV)

Meditate on this Psalm every day when you pray, and use it as the starting place for your own prayer:

¹O God, save me, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

²O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves. Selah

⁴Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

⁵He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them.

⁶With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 54¹:

Lord, our God, who desires not the death of the wicked, convert those who hate us without a cause, and turn the hearts of those who persecute Your Christians. Protect the poor and the innocent against the oppression of unjust men. Grant us patience under the cross, and preserve us in the true faith to our end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

¹ Reading the Psalms with Luther, CPH, 2007

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER – (From LSB page 294)

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

IN OUR PRAYERS AT CHRIST:

Prayer Family: *Joshua & Rachel Landrum* and their loved ones

Arlene Kleinschmidt, Margaret Haynes's sister, who is ill

Sam McGaugh, infant friend of the Helds, who is in high risk categories and has contracted coronavirus

Hurricane Ida Victims, who continue to recover from the storm

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Luther's Morning Prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.